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-U.S. OFFICIAL SAYS CLOSING BEIRUT AIRPORT EXCEEDS
"GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY"

WASHINGTON -(DJ)--ALTHOUGH THE WHITE HOUSE
ANNOUNCED PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN IS CONSIDERING ACTIONS
THAT WOULD CLOSE DOWN BEIRUT AIRPORT AND CUT OFF GOODS AND
SERVICES TO THE LEBANESE CAPITAL IN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE
PRESSURE FOR THE RELEASE OF 40 AMERICAN HOSTAGES, AN
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL LATER VOICED SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE
ABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES TO CLOSE DOWN THE LEBANESE
AIRPORT.

EDWARD MARKS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COUNTER TERRORISM AT
THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, SAID CLOSING THE BEIRUT AIRPORT
"EXCEEDS THE ABILITY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT."

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